

Weekly Connection

For the Week of May 6 - May 12, 2018
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

Making a Difference THROUGH ONE FOSTER CHILD AT A TIME



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference and more...

Making a Difference Through One Foster Child at a Time.

Reprinted from the Hoyleton Youth & Family Services 2017 Impact Report

You may have never met him, but if someone had to choose seven words to describe Larry Kaburick, Mahatma Ghandi found them when he wrote his famous quote "Where there is Love, there is Life."

Larry Kaburick has been a coal miner, a farmer, a chimney sweep, a veteran of the Vietnam War, an agriculture salesperson and an emergency foster care parent to more than 90 kids over a seven-year period. As a volunteer, he embraces and supports Hoyleton's

mission.

"I have been blessed and lucky in my life with a wonderful family. I first met Hoyleton through my late wife who was on the Board of Directors," Larry said. "I remember my first visit to the campus. Here was an old school house, where they were doing amazing things. The facility needed help and that inspired me. I love kids and I wanted for those kids to have something better."

Read [more](#) of the article.

ISC is also grateful for Larry's participation as a member of St. Paul UCC in Carlinville and an active member of the ISC Recruitment Committee. Atta-boy, Larry!!

Partnerships are key as Bethel UCC in Cahokia strives to feed the hungry children of their community.

During Partnership Sunday, the Cahokia School District social workers and truancy officers were honored during worship. Bethel's Week-end Food Program Coordinator, Judy Betz (a member of the Illinois South Hunger Action Committee) was also honored. Bethel and partners have distributed over 8,000 weekend meals to children



just this school year. 24,000 meals have been distributed since beginning this ministry in 2013. Bethel gives thanks for their many partners throughout the conference who have helped in FEEDING HUNGRY CHILDREN!



Friedens UCC in Irvington will host an open house on May 19, from 10 am - 6: 30 pm to accommodate those who would like a tour of our new addition/renovation at 307 S Third Street, Irvington. For more information,



call 618-249-8445.

Important Links

iscucc.org/

duboiscenter.org

ucc.org

[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#)

[Emmaus Homes](#)

[Hitz Memorial Home](#)

[Hoyleton](#)

[Insurance Board](#)

[LIFE Program](#)

[Neighborhood Houses](#)

[New Athens Home](#)

[St. John's Community Care](#)

[St. Paul's Home](#)

[Uplands Village](#)

[UCC Campus Ministry](#)

[Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#)

[ISC Directory](#)

Pray for...

Prayer list for May 6-12, 2018 Churches & Pastors

- Dupo Christ UCC, Rev. Todd (Suzanne) Mushaney
- Dupo First Congregational UCC, Rev. Dr. Robert E. (Jay) Lee

Boundary Training 2018

In order to maintain ministerial standing in the Illinois South Conference, authorized ministers are required to receive Boundary Awareness Training every three years. Boundary Training is based on the curriculum from Faith Trust Institute. If you are unsure about when you are due to re-qualify, please check with the Conference Office at 618-654-2125 or cpursell@iscucc.org.

COST: \$20 covers food and materials for ISC pastors; \$30 for non-ISC pastors

Healthy Boundaries 201 (Registration Deadline Tues, May 15)

Date: Tuesday, May 22

Time: 8:30 Registration; 9:00 start, conclude by 2 pm

Facilitator: Rev. Shana Johnson

Location: ISC Conference Office, Highland, IL

Healthy Boundaries 201 (Registration Deadline Tues, Sept 4)

Date: Tuesday, September 11

Time: 8:30 Registration; 9:00 start, conclude by 2 pm

Facilitator: Rev. Shana Johnson

Location: ISC Conference Office, Highland, IL

Boundaries for Retired Clergy (Registration Deadline Tues, June 4)

Date: Tuesday, June 12

Time: 8:30 Registration; 9:00 start, conclude by noon

Facilitator: TBD

Location: ISC Conference Office, Highland, IL

Boundaries for Retired Clergy (Registration Deadline Tues, Nov 6)

Date: Tuesday, November 13

Time: 8:30 Registration; 9:00 start, conclude by noon

Facilitator: TBD

Location: ISC Conference Office, Highland, IL

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Allen and Lynn Reiter, Hamel, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Keep Kyle Nuetzel (24) in your prayers as he recovers from a serious car accident and is currently in a rehabilitation hospital in Chicago. Kyle is the son of Kathy Nuetzel, the fiancée of Rev. Patrick Poole. Rev. Poole is the pastor at Maeystown St. John UCC. Kyle and his mom live in the St. Charles area.

- Pray for Pastor Cherie (Michael) Stolze as she deals with pain from an accident. Pastor Stolze is the pastor for St. Peter's UCC Stone Church and St. Paul UCC in Okawville. Cards may be sent to her at 12023 Lake Meade Dr, St. Louis, MO 63146.

- Please pray for Brenda Crisp as she deals with some health issues. Brenda is the director of Uni-Pres Kindercottage. Cards may be sent to her at 564 Veronica Ave, E St. Louis, IL 62205.

- Pray for the family of Mabel Schickendanz as they mourn her death and celebrate her life. Mabel was the organist and choir director for Friedens UCC in Marissa for 74 years. She died at age 98, having performed at St. Paul UCC in Belleville the week before her death. Click [here](#) for the complete obituary.

- Pray for Rich (Joyce) Gusewelle as he deals with some health issues. Rich and Joyce are members of St. Paul UCC in Edwardsville and Joyce is a member of the ISC Conference Gatherings Team. Cards may be sent to 5238 N State Rt 157, Edwardsville, IL 62025.



One Great Hour OF SHARING UPDATES

Did you know, volunteer sites are now available in all of the areas impacted by the hurricanes of 2017? Most recently, the volunteer site for the US Virgin Islands has opened and volunteers can

register and begin helping there. Likewise, volunteers can now sign-up to assist in Puerto Rico and plan to provide their assistance beginning June 2018. To register your group, click [here](#).

We continue to pray for all who were impacted by the storms and everyone who signed up to help. While you may have shared your interest a while ago, the time has finally arrived for you to get involved. Over 300 individuals and congregations signed up.

Other ways OGHS is making it easier for you to stay connected is through social media. OGHS has a [Facebook page](#), a [Twitter page](#), and is starting an [Instagram page](#) to help you find the resources you want. These are great for up-to-the-minute reporting during times of disaster, but better still, these resources will help you stay connected with all the ways the offering is helping people and communities worldwide.

SHANA'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 6

Worship at the Art of Transitional Ministry Conference

May 13

Preaching at the 60th Anniversary celebration at Church of the Good Shepherd, Carbondale

THIS IS YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK

To invite me to your church for a particular event, season in the life of the church, or a special occasion, please reach out to me via email at sjohnson@iscucc.org or by phone at 618-654-2125 (office phone) or 618-882-8247.



Burdens of the World

For the last few weeks, the oil icon on the dashboard of my car has been subtly reminding me that it is time to have my car serviced. Finally, I made the earliest morning appointment I could get to have my oil changed. As I sat in the waiting room flipping through old magazines, I came across an article in *Time Magazine* about the pace of life in America.

The article referred to a 1968 expert testimony that was given to a Senate sub-committee on time management. The experts forecasted that advances in technology would radically change how many hours a week people would work. They predicted that the average American would be working 22 hours a week within 20 years. "The great challenge," one of the experts proclaimed, "will be figuring out what to do with all the excess time."

As I sat there waiting for my car, I was hardly thinking that my biggest challenge that week would be to figure out what to do with all the excess time I would have that week. No, fifty years later we are hardly a nation of people who feel like we have too much time on our hands. Instead, we are a weary people.

We are also a heavily burdened people. We are a people of constant worry. Much of this is due to the non-stop news feed of negativity around us. A few years ago, an interesting experiment was conducted. A large group of people recruited by a research center was told to record their internal dialogues by faithfully journaling for a full year. Their journaling was to begin each morning and included anything that came into their minds throughout the day.

For example, if they watched the news, they were to write down whether the input from that show was positive or negative and how they evaluated the rest of their day as a result. After a year and a half, the results were analyzed. Not surprisingly, ninety percent of the time, it was found that people received negative input and in turn, the negativity caused them to feel overwhelmed, discouraged, and tired.

We are also a tired people, both figuratively and literally. Even though in theory we have more devices that are supposed to make life easier, these devices are actually interrupting our rest and sleep. The lights from our smart phones, tablets, and computer screens are disrupting our sleep, because our bodies are literally wired to power down in the dark. Because we are lacking sleep which diminishes our energy, we depend on coffee, soda and energy drinks to get us through.

Yes, we are a people who are weary, who are burdened, and who are very tired. Yet, we look for solutions in all the wrong places instead of looking to the One who created us and who knows us better than we know ourselves.

Best-selling author, Harold Kushner, known primarily for his book *Why Bad Things Happen to Good People*, wrote another book entitled *Who Needs God?* in which he challenged us to be honest with ourselves about the ways we have dismissed our need for the power and help of God in our lives. *"Atlas was condemned to carry the weight of the entire world on his shoulders. That was as harsh a punishment as the ancient Greek mind could conjure up. Today, it seems,"* says Kushner, *"we have volunteered to play the role of Atlas. We have not offended God; we have dismissed God, told God we were grown up enough not to need God's help any more, and offered to carry the weight of the world upon our shoulders. The question is, when it gets too heavy for us, when there are questions too hard for human knowledge to answer and problems that take more time to solve than any of us have, will we be too proud to admit that we have made a mistake in wanting to carry this world alone?"*

The truth is there are times when the questions of this life are too hard and too complex for us to answer and comprehend. We were not created to solve all of life's mysteries. We were not meant to carry the weight of this world alone. Yet, we were created to entrust all of these things to God and trust in the rest and renewal that only God can provide.

Jesus reminded us that God has not designed us to carry the weight and burdens of this world alone. He offers us freedom from our weariness, our burdens, and our tiredness. As he says to us, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

Church World Service (CWS) Shares Its Impact Report for 2017

The CWS Kit and Blanket Programs are two of the many ways CWS shares in a hope-filled tomorrow. Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of children and families the world over. Here are some of the places CWS has provided kits and blankets through your support. Blue states are the states that have received assistance.

United States

4,320 Blankets 113 Baby Kits 5,330 School Kits 123,039 Hygiene Kits
4,612 Clean-up Buckets

Total Kits and Blankets Distributed Globally – 243,952





Meet Our Summer Staff

Welcome Rachel Kinzinger to our 2018 summer staff team! Rachel is returning for her 8th summer on staff and will again be serving as a Village Coordinator. From New Athens, Illinois, she is an active member of St. John UCC and serves on the Board of Christian Ed there. Rachel has a degree in special education and is currently teaching at Marissa Jr/Sr High School. No stranger to DuBois Center, Rachel was first a camper here in 2002, then a CIT, a counselor beginning in 2011, and a coordinator since 2014. She



also works throughout the year hosting groups, life-guarding and preparing for our summer season. Outside of camp she enjoys reading, watching Netflix, spending time with her adorable one-year old nephew and hammocking! Her favorite foods are anything Mexican, gummy bears, Ski and Ranger cookies - a camp favorite. Her favorite movies are *Toy Story*, *Moana*, *Hercules*, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, and her favorite smell is the air after it rains. Rachel grew up on a farm and one of her favorite childhood memories is of showing cattle through 4-H. She started showing when she was nine and continued through high school. That experience brought great friendships, enduring memories, and numerous life lessons. One of Rachel's role models is Mr. Hull, her high school science teacher. Mr. Hull was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer when she was a senior. She was amazed by his dedication to his students. He even visited them weekly in the midst of chemo treatments, and kept his promise to attend their graduation - even though he was sick from chemo. Mr. Hull's teaching went beyond the textbooks. Rachel wrote, "He taught us about the importance of laughter, about dedication, and about learning through mistakes. He passed away a few years ago, and he still inspires me every day to be involved in my students' lives and show them the same love that he showed me as a student." Welcome back Rachel!



SUMMER CAMP VOLUNTEERS

Consider a week (or even a few days) at DuBois Center and join our Summer Camp

2018 team! Wanted: fun, engaging and caring volunteers to serve as nurses, cabin counselors, activity specialists and barn helpers. Minimum age is 18 for most positions; young adults and older adults are welcome. Give of your time and talent; make a difference; and gain a wonderful sense of satisfaction...and even perhaps a bit of joy! Check out the photo above. Can you pick out the four volunteers? For more information, go to the volunteer [page](#) of our website or contact 618-787-2202 or shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org.

WHY CHURCH CAMP?

Because church camp is joyful fun! It is a sacred place. It is intensely relational, and positive role models abound!

Though an integral part of many congregations' year-round faith formation efforts, church camp is different from Vacation Bible School or Sunday School. Campers and leaders live, work, play and worship together from early morning until late into the evening. They grow together through shared experiences in God's amazing creation and form an intentional community. They hear our faith stories in new places and new ways, and find opportunities to share their own. The activities are fun, challenging and filled with opportunities to grow as part of a Christian community. Click [here](#) to learn more.



HIGH SCHOOL WEEK at DuBois Center

June 17-22 older youth (completed grades 8-12) take over the Rustic Village. One week, two



great options: Wranglers and X-Plore! It's a week to be yourself, make good friends, find new adventures and grow with God. Meals on Rustic are back! Choice times are back! And with them more opportunities to hang with your friends and customize your week. Play disc golf - DuBois style; get super crafty; fish at Deer Run; or ride horses in "the bottoms." Play cricket or Aussie football with our international staff and check-out weird and wacky activities at the waterfront. For details, pick up a brochure in your church office, click [here](#) for the online version or contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Ready to register? Go to the DuBois [website](#) or click [here](#). Don't delay - June is just around the corner!



Camps for Younger Children

Children who have completed grades 1-3 are often looking for ways to experience life like the "big kids." Parents are looking for opportunities for their children to gain self-confidence, critical social skills, and a greater awareness of God's world. At DuBois Center, we have five part-week sessions designed with this in mind. Shorter sessions and smaller group sizes are ideal for this age group. Their time is filled with new adventures under the watchful eyes of caring, safety-conscious leaders. Despite the length of these sessions, there is still time to ride a horse, explore the creek, swim in the lake, and make lots of new friends. This summer, choose from Boy Meets Camp, Camp Quest, Discovery Camp or Girl Power. Check out page 6 of the camp [brochure](#) for details. You may also

pick up a brochure in your church office or contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202 to receive one by mail. If you are ready to register, click [here](#).

DuBois Center is your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work. When you or your congregation gives to OCWM, you are directly supporting the work of DuBois, a Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you for your ongoing support of OCWM!



CHHSM News

Council for Health and Human Service Ministries



CUE Updates

Chicago Theological Seminary has named Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr., as its new president, succeeding Rev. Dr. Alice Hunt, who announced her retirement last year. Ray became the 13th president in the seminary's 163-year history on February 1, 2018. Installation events will be celebrated October 10-12, 2018. More information to come. Click [here](#).

Saturday May 12th - 9:00 - Noon

This springtime event, rich in tradition, takes place in the beautiful countryside surrounding Maeystown, Illinois. Walkers or runners can choose between a 2 or 5 mile course. A Hike & Bike t-shirt and hearty lunch are included in your registration fee - the fun & fellowship are free! All proceeds benefit Hoyleton's Summer Program. Youth are able to attend museums, go fishing, swimming and attend Hoyleton Day Camp at DuBois Center thanks to generous supporters. Please join us in Maeystown as we continue Building Stronger Communities One Child at a Time. Pre-registration is suggested. Can't attend - sign up as a "Spirit Walker", receive a t-shirt and show your support! Register [online](#). For more information contact: Dave Henerfauth at 618-935-2354 or spiritbydesignstl@gmail.com.

HIKE & BIKE 2018
Hoyleton
in historic
Maeystown

Saturday
MAY 12
9:00 - Noon

Summer is all about fun, help us raise money for the youth at Hoyleton so they can get out and enjoy the sun!



St. John's Community Care invites all ages to join them in celebrating Older Americans Month Celebration on May 30 at St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville at 11 am.

They want to fill the seats (children with parents, grandchildren with grandparents etc.) to show our love and support for those who are aging! A short church service will be followed with a lovely free luncheon for everyone who attends, and then of course a little musical entertainment by the Chris & Charlie Show. Food, fellowship, and fun. Please bring a guest! RSVP to 618-344-5008 by May 21. Visit St. John's Community Care blog post [here](#). Please share this [flyer](#) with your congregations and/or family.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network presents UCC W.I.S.E. Mental Health Conference on Friday, May 4 at St. Paul UCC in Downer's Grove (Chicago), Illinois from 8 am - 5 pm. W.I.S.E. stands for Welcoming-Inclusive-Supportive-Engaged

At this conference, you will:

- * Hear stories by persons who have been affected by mental health issues;
- * Receive practical steps to engage in a mental health ministry in our congregations;

* Be introduced to the WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) Covenant for congregations for mental health; and

* Worship together, share together, and meet new people.

Click [here](#) for more information or [here](#) to register.

The Ecuador Partnership Committee and FEDICE invite you to an Evening with Blanca Puma Martinez, the executive director of FEDICE.

On Thurs, May 3 at 7 pm at Marine UCC, Blanca and Luis will tell you about the FEDICE program and its ongoing battle to stay afloat. She will speak starting at 7 pm, followed by discussion. FEDICE's mission is to empower communities in Ecuador through holistic, sustainable, and dignified development. To find out more about FEDICE, click [here](#) or [here](#) for a flyer to share with your congregation and friends.

Region 3

The Evening Circle from St John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville will be having their annual Luncheon and Fashion show on Thurs, June 21 at 11:30 am in Faith Hall. The event features a variety of homemade salads made by our ladies plus a display of summer clothes from Dillards using our own models. The \$12/ ticket may be purchased through Judy Brickey (618-345-4889) or through Amy at the office (618-344-2526). Tickets will not be sold at the door that day. Any questions may be directed to Vicki Donovan at 618-344-6809.

Region 4

Godfrey Congregational Church will host its Spring Salad Luncheon on Thurs, May 3 from 11 am to 1:30 pm at 6104 Godfrey Rd, Godfrey. There will be a wide variety of delicious salads, dessert & drink. Donation \$8. Bake sale, door prizes and raffle drawings.

Region 8

St. John UCC in New Athens, will hold an all-you-can-eat chicken dinner on Sun, May 6 from 11 am until 2 pm. The menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, seasoned green beans, corn, slaw, water, tea, coffee, and dessert. Adults \$10; Children 2-12 years \$5. Carry out and drive-through service are both available. For more information, contact the church office at stjohnucc@att.net or 618-475-2947.

Region 9

Concordia UCC in Belleville will host a Chicken dinner and Strawberry festival on Sun, June 3 from 11 am - 3 pm. Fried Chicken (fried in peanut oil) with all the 'fixins'. Dine-in or Carry-out. Quilt Raffle Chances: \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5. Bake Sale. Adults \$11; Children 6-12 years \$5.50; Children 5 and under Free. Contact 618-476-3377.